

# What Works Clearinghouse

A trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education.



Contact: Steve Fleischman

(202) 403-5989

## What Works Clearinghouse Intervention and Topic Reports Released

Washington, D.C. (November 17, 2004) – The What Works Clearinghouse (WWC) released today its first intervention and topic reports. These reports will be issued on an ongoing basis to provide education decision makers with the reliable evidence needed to select effective education interventions (programs, products, practice, and policies). Intervention reports describe a particular intervention and each outcome study that meets the WWC Standards, and presents the findings from those studies. Topic reports briefly describe the reviewed WWC topic and each intervention that has studies that meet the WWC Standards, and summarize the findings.

“For too long education decision makers have struggled to identify the most effective approaches to help their students. Today’s release of intervention and topic reports takes a big step towards meeting this challenge,” said U.S. Secretary of Education Rod Paige.

The reports released today evaluate the evidence of effectiveness of leading middle school math curricula. For its review the WWC defined middle school math curricula as the primary curricula used to teach math for students in grades 6 through 9, lasting at least one semester. Of the more than 800 studies identified for this review, 11 studies on five middle school math curricula fully meet WWC Standards or meet standards with reservations. These studies are available on the WWC website ([www.whatworks.ed.gov](http://www.whatworks.ed.gov)).

“The release of the first set of intervention and topic reports is a major accomplishment for the field of education. Today these reports help us understand what works in mathematics, but over time the WWC will provide a large body of credible evidence of what works in many areas of concern to educators,” said Grover “Russ” Whitehurst, director of the Institute of Education Sciences.

Future WWC reviews, to be released in the coming months, will focus on beginning reading and character education.

The What Works Clearinghouse was established in 2002 by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences to provide educators, policymakers, researchers, and the public with a central and trusted source of scientific evidence of what works in education. The clearinghouse is administered by the U.S. Department of Education through a contract to a joint venture of the American Institutes for Research and the Campbell Collaboration.